

Serial No. 10/064,989  
Filed: 09/06/02  
Page 4 of 5

Examiner: Chi Q. Nguyen  
Group Art Unit: 3635  
Confirmation No.: 1838

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Examiner has asserted that this Office action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on May 13, 2005. To the contrary, Applicant's last Amendment was filed on June 17, 2003, but was not acted upon by the U.S. Patent Office until the Office action mailed September 1, 2005.

Claims 1-6, 16-21, and 39-44 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6, and 39-41 stand rejected. Claims 6 and 41 stand objected to. Claims 16-21 and 42-44 stand allowed. Applicant is grateful to the Examiner for the notification of allowable subject matter in claims 16-21 and 42-44.

Claims 1-6 and 39-41 have been canceled without prejudice, leaving only allowed claims in the application.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the referenced amendments and the following remarks.

#### **Objections to Claims**

Claims 6 and 41 stand objected to as allegedly containing inconsistent language. The objection is traversed.

Claims 6 and 41 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, the objection is moot. Applicant requests the withdrawal of the objection.

#### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1-4 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,866,901 to Sanchez. The rejection is traversed.

Claims 1-4 and 39 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, the rejection is moot. Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection.

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Page 5 of 5

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**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 5, 6, 40, and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Sanchez '901. The rejection is traversed.

Claims 5, 6, 40, and 41 had been canceled without prejudice. Thus, the rejection is moot. Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection.

Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: Dec. 13, 2005

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